

### THE HOUSEWIFE TO HER DAUGHTER.

You little guess the lonesomeness that's coming o'er my life,  
When you have left the farm and me to be Will Johnson's wife;  
But I suppose my mother felt just so when from her side  
Your father came one Summer day to carry home his bride.

Ah me! how happy had I been if Providence had spared  
My good old man, to see this day, who all my feelings shared;  
But then I would not bring him back, not even if I might,  
Nor change one crook that's in my lot, for what God does is right.

But as I sit alone and think, I see some things I'd change;  
I might have made him happier; then do not think it strange,  
If I should speak some warning words, to save you, if I may,  
From making thoughtless, sad mistakes, to bring clouds o'er your way.

So just remember, Hannah, dear, that though you're pretty bright,  
It may be very possible you'll not be always right;  
Perhaps when you are fretting o'er some other body's sin,  
You'll find the fault was all your own, if you would look within.

As when we washed the window panes, together face to face,  
So that the smallest spot or stain should find no resting place,  
You would insist, however hard to make you see I tried,  
That every spot was my fault, when 'twas really on your side.

And Hannah, oh, be patient if you find Will sometimes slow,  
Your wits flash out like lightning streaks, as swift to come and go.  
Now lightning is a handy thing in stormy nights, 'tis true,  
But after all a steady shine is kind 'o useful too.

And if there's any difference comes 'twixt your good man and you,  
Don't stop to ask whose fault it is; the only way to do,  
Is just to take the thing in hand try and with all your might,  
Before it grows too big to change, to fix it up all right.

You know the dough, when first 'tis set, is moulded as we will,  
But when 'tis baked we cannot change its shape for good or ill;  
So now, when you are starting out in your new home is just  
The time to see what way's you'll set to harden into crust.

But, dear, you'll not succeed alone, no matter how you try;  
You'll have to go down on your knees and ask help from on High.  
We soap and rub, and boil and rinse, but after all, you know,  
It's take's Heaven's sun to make the clothes as white as new-fallen snow.

—Good House Keeping.

### Correspondence.

#### TOBACCO CULTURE.

HOMINY, N. C., April 14, 1886.  
EDITOR CITIZEN:—I have read with interest some communications in the *Citizen* from my neighbor and friend J. C. Curtis, presenting the relative advantages of tobacco culture with grass culture and stock-raising, to the disadvantage of tobacco culture as a profitable or judicious venture. All that neighbor Curtis says of the advantages of stock-raising and grass-growing I heartily concur in. I also agree with him in the suggestions that an improper or careless cultivation of tobacco is not only unprofitable but may lead to bad results. But what I wish now to show is that tobacco culture itself is not inimical to any interest, but can be made, as where properly done it has been made, a most valuable and important auxiliary crop in our section. I will cite my own experience the last year. I have sold my crop of tobacco for \$800 cash. To make this crop and sell it cost me about \$300. In addition I raised not only enough home supplies for all my needs, but I have sold in hay, Irish potatoes and other products already, for cash, over two hundred dollars' worth, and have enough to sell to quite reach the sum of cost of producing the entire tobacco crop, viz: \$300.

I can name four or five of my neighbors who succeeded as well proportionately with amount in cultivation. Now I submit that no other crop, involving an equal outlay of labor, means, and land could have produced such results as tobacco. Bro. Curtis will doubtless agree with me. He will say, however, that while I and a few others succeeded a large number of others failed. This is no argument against tobacco as an addition to other crops, but is an argument against the management of the men themselves. While Bro. Curtis has succeeded, and well, with stock, he will not insist that every man who has attempted to deal in stock has got rich, nor even made money, simply because, no doubt, all are not so judicious in this management and methods as his.

I believe our people can do well with tobacco, and help the country, by proper management; while I know that they can fail at that or other things by improper management. All of our farmers who raise their own supplies and have a crop of tobacco in addition, and cultivate and handle it right, are making money, and not hurting their lands. I know many, having concluded to rely entirely on tobacco, leaving other things out, have failed, but this was more on account of the man than the crop.

My advice is, let every farmer prepare for full supplies for home use, over to spare if possible, and then add a few acres of tobacco and cultivate and handle well, and our country and people will find the tobacco crop a most important factor in the up-building of the section.

SOL. J. LUTHER.

—Asheville Citizen.

#### AGRICULTURE AND LABOR.

If the present banishment of Chinese laborers continues, it may be a serious question where the fruit and hop-pickers are to come from. We do not anticipate, however, any speedy success in this movement that the labor supplies will be cut off, and if the movement be gradual, so that new supplies of good workmen can be summoned to take the place of the element to which so much objection is made, the result will be generally satisfactory.

We notice that the makers of new laws at Washington are linking agriculture and labor in this way. A bill has been reported, which provides for the establishment of a Department of Agriculture and Labor, under the supervision of a Secretary of Agriculture and Labor, who shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The bill also provides for the appointment of an assistant secretary. The new section presented for incorporation in this bill by the Labor Committee creates in the Department of Agriculture and Labor, a division which shall be under the charge of the Commissioner of Labor, who shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. He is to hold office for four years, unless he is removed, and receive a salary of \$4,000 per annum. The Commissioner shall collect information upon the subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, the earnings of laboring men and women, the means of promoting their material, intellectual and moral prosperity, and the best means to protect life and prevent accidents in mines, workshops, factories and other places of industry. The Secretary of Agriculture and Labor is empowered to inquire into the causes of discontent which may exist between employees and employers within the United States.

#### A NEW IDEA ABOUT CORN.

An exchange tells of a man who plants two or three weeks after the crop is planted, a new hill of corn every fifteenth row each way. And this is the reason: If the weather becomes dry after the filling time, the silk and tassels both become dry and dead. In this condition, if it should become seasonable, the silk revives its growth, but the tassels do not recover. Then, for want of pollen, the new silk is unable to fill the office for which it was designed. The pollen from the replanted corn is then ready to supply silk, and the filling is completed. He says nearly all the abortive ears, so common in all corn crops, are caused by the want of pollen, and he has known ears to double their size in this filling.

### Farm Notes.

#### BOARDS FOR DRAINS.

In some places boards nailed together make a good and cheap drain for carrying off large bodies of water. Hemlock boards always kept under water are quite durable, but if part of the time dry they soon decay.

#### NEATNESS PAYS.

Let any farmer look around in his vicinity, and he will find the most prosperous farmers are those who take the most pains in keeping their fields and fence corners clear of weeds and their buildings painted and in good repair.

#### POTATOES FOR THE BUGS.

It is well after planting potatoes to drop a few cut pieces on the surface of the ground. This will attract the potato beetles, which may then be destroyed. The beetle rarely eats the potato. It is attracted to it to deposit its eggs.

#### SORGHUM SEED FOR HOGS.

The Rio Grande Sugar Company of New Jersey has used its surplus sorghum seed as feed for hogs with excellent success. The animals have been healthy and have thrived on it as well as on corn. The seed is cooked by steam before feeding.

#### CABBAGE SEED.

Farmers sometimes plant the stumps of cabbage for seed; but the product is generally not worth planting. The secret of success in growing good cabbage seeds is in planting large, well-formed heads with the roots attached. It is this necessity for using the head that will always make good cabbage seed expensive.

#### SOWING AFTER A RAIN.

A damp seed bed is important for all grain, but on heavy land it is better made damp before than after putting in the seed. A heavy rain falling just after sowing has often formed a crust which has imprisoned the germ until its vitality is greatly decreased. Harrowing the surface slightly just as the grain is coming up, is, in such cases, beneficial.

#### THE MOST VALUABLE DAIRY PRODUCT.

Cheese and butter are among the most valuable farm products in the country, but both are less in amount than milk, as used and sold with no expense for manufacturing. This is partly because fraud in the imitation of butter and cheese unduly reduces the prices of these articles and also decreases the demand. If we had only good honest butter the consumption would be enormously increased.

#### OATS AS FOOD.

Oatmeal is deservedly growing in popularity as human food. The crop in this country is unusually large and in most places the grain is very plump. It is not necessary to hull the oats before grinding, as is usual, done, which makes oatmeal cost more than the best wheat flour. Grind first and sift the meal through a fine sieve, and the oatmeal will be just as good and cost considerably less.

#### HEN MANURE IN SUMMER.

If the henhouse was properly cleaned last Spring, and kept free from vermin, the hens will roost in it and make a considerable quantity of valuable manure, worth quite as much as the grain fed to them. In Summer fowls with a good range eat a good many insects, and this makes a richer manure than the exclusive grain diet given in Winter.

#### ACIDS POISONOUS TO SOILS.

Apples and other fruits should be gathered and saved, however low the price, since they are at least worth gathering for their feeding value. If left on the ground they are positively injurious, the acid of the fruit poisoning the soil and destroying all vegetation beneath them. A dressing of lime will correct this acidity and restore fertility.

#### GIVING LAND A REST.

Producing a crop is a necessity where fertility exists. If not a valuable crop it will be one of weeds, whose seeds are always present and ready to germinate when opportunity offers. If left unplowed the land should be so heavily seeded with clover as to prevent weed growth as much as possible. When most farmers talk of giving their land a rest they mean a rest themselves from the labor of tilling it.

#### PROFIT IN FRUIT GROWING.

The farmer who sells fruit, even at low prices, will be surprised to find how much more he receives from an equal area in any kind of fruit than in ordinary grain crops. It takes a pretty large area to produce \$20 worth of wheat at present prices, but this amount is easily realized from a few choice vines or trees in full bearing, and with less expense for cultivating and harvesting.

#### DIVIDING PASTURES.

As stock in running over a large field trample down quite as much as they consume, there is considerable advantage in dividing pastures, so that while one part is being eaten down the other will be growing unmolested. Not much of a fence is required to do this, as there is no great temptation to break over before the farmer will voluntarily make the change. But it is not a good plan to accustom stock to poor fences anywhere, as when once taught to be breachy it is difficult and often impossible to break the habit of jumping.

#### WATERING CUCUMBER VINES.

Much of the watering of cucumber vines is so injudiciously done as to result in more harm than good. If cold water is thrown on the vines in large quantities it hardens the surface soil and runs off without benefiting, except for a very little while. The proper way to water any vines is to dig a hole in the side of the hill, fill it with manure-water two or three times and allow this to soak into the soil on either side. Then replace the loose earth in the hole and hoe the earth around the vines to the depth of one or two inches to retain the moisture.

#### LEGISLATING AGAINST THISTLES.

The recent Indiana Legislature enacted that any person knowingly allowing Canada thistles to grow and mature upon his land, or land under his charge, shall be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$20; and for the second and each subsequent offence, double the amount of the first time. Supervisors of the high ways of the State who allow thistles to grow on any road in their districts are subject to like penalties; as are also road masters of railway lines who allow the pests to grow about stations or along the right of way under their supervision. This is a wise law and worthy of enactment in other States.

#### THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Mr. Powderly's circular letter to the Knights of Labor throughout the country sounds the first note of the campaign, and may be accepted as an intimation that, believing every other means of reaching a settlement of the questions involved in the great strike in the Southwest to have failed, he has now thrown down the gauge of battle. This is the first time in the history of the Republic that its people have been called upon to witness such an important contest; and when we consider the magnitude of the interests involved and the far-reaching effects which the result, whatever it may be, will have upon our social and economic relations, the thought is enough to give every intelligent man food for anxious reflection. Mr. Powderly pleads earnestly for funds to aid the strikers, and at the same time intimates that another appeal may be made, presumably to secure legislation against monopoly. He is careful to assert that the battle is not against capital, but against "the man who wrecks railroads, homes, fortunes and lives in his greed for gold." A holy crusade this would be in any country and by any people, but there would be danger in success. Victory might lead to the establishment of monopoly equally as dangerous, namely, that of suddenly acquired power without the equilibrium of the compensating balance necessary to restrain excess in an opposite direction.

What are the facts? Thousands of men are out of employment. They claim to have grievances for which they cannot obtain a remedy; they insist that the wages which they receive for their labor will not support them and their families, and that for this reason they have stopped work. Individuals and corporations who employ them deny their statements; and so these two factors, employer and employed, stand in armed opposition. But meanwhile there are millions of dollars in the country awaiting investment, and the condition of things is accom-

panied by so much uncertainty that all this capital lies unproductive at the very time when it ordinarily could be put to profitable use. Builders, it is true, are taking out permits for the erection of structures of all kinds, but many of them hesitate at beginning operations until they can discern some prospect of a restoration of amicable relations between capital and labor. Industrial and mechanical establishments are declining to make contracts for the future; the best half of the spring season of business and trade has passed, and but little progress has been made toward that activity which was anticipated when the year opened. The vast fields of the Northwest will soon be ready for the harvest, but men will not manufacture implements needed to mow down and prepare the grain for the markets of the world if they think it is only likely to rot in the sheaf. It is not until we are brought face to face with conditions such as now exist that we are able fully to recognize how dependent we are upon another, and there is little wonder that a lack of confidence prevails and that men are undecided as to what their next course should be.

Public opinion, which may occasionally err on matters of detail but which is generally right when it begins to crystallize opposing elements and form general deductions, is hesitating where it should place the responsibility for the events that are now transpiring. The reports that come to us through the telegraphic and other sources have in some cases the appearance of being rather the diluted opinions of others than the reflex of actual occurrences. Therefore it is that they are taken with caution; but no such necessity need exist when we begin to ask who will be responsible for the conduct of the test which it is threatened will now be begun. The Knights of Labor must shoulder that responsibility alone. The railroad companies with which they are at war will use no more weapons against them except in self defense, and the leaders of the order must see that the campaign is to be one of moral force. The task before them is a difficult one. In their very strength paradoxical as it may seem, lies their weakness. If their acknowledged head found it difficult to mould his subordinates to his views, how much more difficult will it be for those subordinates to control men who have entered the order without any comprehension of the responsibilities of citizenship, but simply with the view of helping themselves as individuals. There may in this organization be embryo of a new estate, which is to wield a salutary influence on our laws and institutions; but before these men, earnest as many of them may be, arrogate to themselves that privilege let them show by their actions that they are worthy of being invested with such dignity.—Philadelphia Record.

#### THE CAUSE OF VERMIN.

Says the *Poultry Nation*: "Lice do not attack fowls that are in good condition as they do those in an impoverished state. Lice and poverty go hand in hand among fowls, and it may be claimed the presence of lice causes the fowls to become poor, which is true; but if the fowls are fat and in good flesh, the lice are repelled to a certain degree, as they are not partial to oily carcasses, much preferring the poor, thin fowls as their victims, which they soon destroy. With clean quarters, a dust bath, and liberal feeding, the fowls will rid themselves of vermin, and do it so completely that they will not again be troubled, unless the breeder compels his fowls to live in filth and disease-breeding places. The same may be said of disease which follows lice. Fowls that become the prey of lice become weak and sickly, and are not able to ward off disease, and therefore become subject to it much quicker than those that are healthy. But if the poor fowls are attacked, contact carries the disease among them all, and the whole flock suffer. Instead of vermin causing poor condition, the reverse is the case."

For a hair curler take two ounces of borax, and one drachm of gum arabic, and add to them one quart of hot (not boiling) water. Stir, and as soon as the ingredients are dissolved add two tablespoonfuls of spirits of camphor. Before going to bed wet the hair with this fluid and roll it in pieces of paper in the usual manner.